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SENSITIVE
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DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/SE, PM FOR COUNTRYMAN/HOPKINS/FORAN

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EWWT](#) [MARR](#) [PGOV](#) [PHSA](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#)

SUBJECT: TURKEY: ON BOARD WITH US APPROACH TO BROADEN
PARTICIPATION IN THE CONTACT GROUP FOR PIRACY

REF: A. SECSTATE 85758

[1](#)B. JULY 30 LEE-HOPKINS E-MAIL

[1](#)1. (SBU) MFA Maritime Affairs Section Head Haldun Tekneci confirmed on August 19 that the GOT fully supports the proposal to shift from the concept of "membership" in the Contact Group for Piracy Off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) to one of participation, in line with ref a and the presentation Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs Thomas Countryman provided to MFA Deputy U/S Haydar Berk during a July 30 meeting in Ankara (ref b). Haldun subsequently provided a non-paper to summarize Turkey's understanding regarding this issue (see full text in para. 3).

[1](#)2. (SBU) Comment: Patience, a willingness to take GOT concerns into account and PDAS Countryman's personal engagement were critical in turning around Turkey's erstwhile rigid position of blocking the inclusion of Cyprus in CGPCS. End Comment.

[1](#)3. (SBU) Begin Text of Non-Paper:

18 August, 2009

ENLARGEMENT OF CGSP

-- Turkey maintains its views and sensitivities regarding the membership to the Contact Group on Somali Piracy (CGSP).

-- Notwithstanding the foregoing, our consideration of the United States' latest proposal for the enlargement of the CGSP to encompass all UN members is favorable. (Comment: Tekneci clarified verbally that Turkey supports the caveat that would exclude DPRK and Iran, but supports the inclusion of Somalia in CGPCS meetings given the important role it must play in this effort. End Comment).

-- This inclusive approach, we expect, will render possible for the international community to ever more effectively coordinate and closely cooperate in the efforts aimed at suppression of armed robbery at sea/piracy acts off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden.

-- Contributing to CTF-151 and NATO operation SNMG-2 with two frigates, Turkey will continue to actively participate in the work and deliberations of the CGSP and its Working Groups.

-- It is our wish that the new proposal for the CGSP enlargement will enjoy support from the current members of

the Contact Group. We trust the United States and Japanese Governments' persuasive representations (sic) in this regard and hope the new format of "participants" for the CGSP will be introduced with general acclaim at the CGSP meeting to be held in New York on September 10, 2009.

End Text of Non-Paper.

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Silliman